

MINUTES
Nottingham Assessing Advisory Committee
NAAC
Monday November 17, 2008

I. Call to order

Chairman of the Advisory Assessing Committee, John McSorley called to order the meeting of the Advisory Assessing Committee at 7:25 p.m. on November 17, 2008 in the Nottingham Town Offices.

II. Roll call

John McSorley conducted a roll call. The following committee members were present: John McSorley, Lisa Stevens, and Andrea Lewy. The following alternates were present: Bonnie Winona and Skip Seaverns. The following members of the public were present: None.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The meeting minutes from November 3, 2008 were reviewed and approved. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Lisa Stevens and seconded by Andrea Lewy. Lisa Stevens, Andrea Lewy, John McSorley and Skip Seaverns who were present at the November 3, 2008 meeting approved the minutes by unanimous vote.

IV. Items discussed

Due to the resignation of regular member committee member Jeff Gurrier and the subsequent notification of the Town Manager, it was decided to enquire if the Selectmen had made a decision yet to replace Mr. Gurrier with one of the alternate committee members. Chairman McSorley said he would make that enquiry.

Discussion continued regarding the question, if the newly formed BOA would receive a stipend. A motion was made by Lisa Stevens to recommend to the Selectmen that a stipend be given to Board of Assessor members as compensation for the many hours that will be required of them in the execution of their duties. Skip Seaverns seconded the motion and some discussion followed. Selectmen currently receive a stipend of \$3,600 each for services performed by them. The amount of the stipend should be weighed against the ultimate value of the Board of Assessors' overall contribution to the town. It was decided that an amount of \$1,500 would put in recommendation to the Selectmen as a stipend for BOA members. The Committee was not sure what steps should be taken once the recommendation was made, i.e. submission to budget committee for approval and/or recommendation or as a ballot question at Town Meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the basic duties and the level of detail that ought to be expected of the Board of Assessors. The websites of the 5 towns that currently have a BOA were surveyed. They are the Towns of Brookline, Dunbarton, New Ipswich, Wakefield and Washington. While the websites offered varying content regarding the Assessor's activities, it became apparent that their main duties centered around the things less associated with the actual valuation of property. These include the things that represent exemptions from the market valuation of property such as elderly exemptions, veteran's credits, timber and gravel taxation, current use assessment, and authority over the granting of abatements, although the fieldwork regarding abatements was relegated mostly to their assessing contractors.

Committee members felt strongly that Nottingham could do better and within reason have more control over the valuation process even though there may not be a trained assessor on the elected board. This could be accomplished through the contracting process. The contract between Town and Assessing Contractor could be structured in such a way as to have complete enforcement in the Tort Courts and have fail safes along the way in the BOA's dealings and reporting from the contractor as well as reports from DRA that are all outlined in statute.

The committee will continue its efforts along this vein going forward.

A motion was made by Lisa Stevens to change the committee's meeting dates due to conflicts in some members' schedules. Andrea Lewy seconded the motion. For the remainder of 2008 the following meeting dates will change:

Monday December 1 @ 7:15PM to Thursday December 4 @ 7:15 PM

Monday December 15 @ 7:15PM to Thursday December 11 @ 7:15 PM*

* Note the backward dating of this meeting.

The committee will not meet again until 2009. Schedule to be determined. Members of the public are always welcome.

V. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Stevens and seconded by Skip Seaverns. Chairman of the Advisory Assessing Committee, John McSorley, adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: John McSorley